

HONORING NATIONAL CRIME  
VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

**HON. ROBERT J. DOLD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week and to thank Mike Nerheim and the Lake County State's Attorney's Office for organizing the event. This year's theme of engaging communities and empowering victims emphasizes the role that communities can and should play to support victims of crime during their recovery.

Engaging communities to recognize the impact of victimization enables us to help more victims by providing a safe environment where they are supported and empowered. By working with local community leaders like victim counselor Debbie Vanderwall, State's Attorney's citizen advisor Pastor John Caples and education advocate Jonathan Meier, we can leverage our resources to better understand the needs of victims.

We are fortunate that Lake County is such a strong community, eager to offer help to those who need it. I am honored to work with State's Attorney Mike Nerheim to help raise awareness for this important cause and facilitate new partnerships to elevate victims' rights.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF TOM  
RAY RAPER

**HON. LUKE MESSER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Tom Ray Raper, an innovative entrepreneur, generous philanthropist and devoted family man from the Sixth District of Indiana.

Tom embodied what it meant to live the American Dream. He took a \$2,000 investment in 1964 to open a small used car dealership and eventually turned it into one of the largest RV dealerships in America. He owned and operated Tom Raper RVs for 38 more years before selling his dealership empire to David Bane's Camping World Company in 2002.

Not only was Tom a monumental success in the RV business, but he was also known for his huge heart and charitable spirit. After selling his company, Mr. Raper used his time and money to give back to the Richmond community. In 2009, Indiana University East renamed Middlefork Hall to Tom Raper Hall after he bequeathed \$2.17 million to the university. Tom donated more than \$1 million to Wayne County to build a 5,000-seat exhibition building and to make other improvements to the Wayne County Fairgrounds. He also gave \$250,000 to the city to transform the gymnasium at the Civil Hall into a modern performing arts center.

Most recently, Tom, established a \$50,000 endowed scholarship fund at Ivy Tech Community College in Richmond as a means to provide more students with the opportunity to get a college education. It is for selfless contributions like these that the city of Richmond

renamed Williamsburg Pike to Williamsburg Pike/Tom Raper Way.

I have had the pleasure to meet with Tom several times throughout my life. He was an icon in Richmond and a philanthropic inspiration for any man or woman looking to give back to their community. I will always be grateful for the contributions he has made to improve the great city of Richmond, Indiana.

Today, it is my privilege to honor the life of Tom Raper. My thoughts and prayers go out to Tom's family and his wife of 46 years, Suzanne. May God comfort those he left behind with His peace and strength.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF JOB CORPS

**HON. ED WHITFIELD**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Job Corps program as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

For fifty years, Job Corps has served America's most at-risk and vulnerable youths by providing an opportunity to finish their education while obtaining career training and the skills necessary to become productive members of society. It is Job Corps' unique model, partnering the federal government with private industry that has made the program so successful for so many years. Each year Job Corps serves over 50,000 at-risk youth at 125 residential campuses located across the country, and over eighty percent of Job Corps graduates find employment, enlist in the military, or enroll in higher education classes.

I am honored to represent two of these outstanding centers: the Earle C. Clements Job Corps Center in Morganfield and the Muhlenberg Job Corps Center in Greenville. These centers are true assets to their communities. I have visited these centers in person, and I have met with educators, staff, and students. It is the students who are the true testament to the success of this program, and I am moved each time I visit with them and hear just how much Job Corps has changed their lives.

I cofounded the Friends of Job Corps Congressional Caucus in 2006 because I believe in this program. I congratulate Job Corps on its fifty years of success, and I hope it will continue to enrich the lives of many more young people in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING POWERTALK 21

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Alcohol Awareness Day and the Mothers Against Drunk Driving's (MADD) initiative to have open discussions with children about alcohol. PowerTalk 21 is a program that gives families an opportunity to come together to discuss the dangers of underage drinking.

The Southeast Florida chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving has been proactive in

their efforts to educate the community about the dangers of underage drinking. This year they have offered more ways than ever before to share personal experiences about alcohol abuse and the consequences of driving under the influence.

Every day from April 1 to April 21, MADD volunteers published blog posts about their personal tragedies caused by individuals driving under the influence. By sharing their stories, these brave volunteers have given a face to the daunting statistics of lives lost to drunk driving.

The Southeast Florida Chapter of MADD has a long history of championing efforts to raise awareness of underage drinking in our community. They also facilitate the DUI Victim Impact Panel Program, an awareness program for offenders convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. This program shows offenders the trauma, emotional suffering, and financial loss that is commonly experienced by innocent victims and their family members resulting from a DUI-related accident.

I am honored to recognize the PowerTalk 21 program, and I hope that this initiative can help inspire our community to come together to make safer decisions for all of us in South Florida and around the United States.

IN SUPPORT OF THE "START BY  
BELIEVING" CAMPAIGN

**HON. ANN KIRKPATRICK**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, according to the Arizona Department of Public Safety, there were 1,725 reports of rape or attempted rape in 2012, which is five sexual assaults per day. And in 2014, the U.S. Department of Justice gave an alarming estimate that as many as 1 in 3 Native American women would be sexually assaulted in their lifetime, a rate 2.5 times higher than for any other group.

Unfortunately, only 40 percent of sexual assaults are reported, and if the victim is in college that number is cut in half, according to the Justice Department. Research and information from Pennsylvania State University and a 2010 U.S. Senate subcommittee hearing found that the top reason sexual assault victims do not report the crime is their fear of not being believed and being blamed for the attack.

To address this issue, End Violence Against Women International has developed a program titled "Start By Believing," a message that confronts the reality that many victims do not get the support they need when they report the crime. Local governments, private businesses, universities and colleges across the country are participating in the Start By Believing campaign.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and I encourage people everywhere to share this simple message of support for survivors of sexual assault.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR FLIGHT OF  
SOUTHERN OREGON

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 26 World War II veterans from Oregon who will be visiting their memorial this Saturday in Washington, D.C. through Honor Flight of Southern Oregon. On behalf of a grateful state and country, we welcome these heroes to our nation's capital.

The veterans on this flight from Oregon are: Lloyd A. Gathright, Army; Ralph K. Lanning, Army; Charles E. Leierer, Army; William S. McMorrine, Army; Edward C. Phillips, Army; Michael Roebuck, Army; Eugene A. Schmick, Army; Clifford W. Scovell, Army; Duane J. Smolik, Army; Vernon Staley, Army; James A. Holland, Army Air Force; Frederic W. Kuhlmann, Army Air Force; Donald D. Williford, Army Air Force; Joe L. Winter, Army Air Force; Charles F. Paul, Marine Corps; Edward C. Glen, Navy; Gerald G. Holland, Navy; Herbert A. Johnson, Navy; Melvin A. Jones, Navy; Robert E. Murray, Navy; Dale B. Palmer, Navy; John K. Penniman, Navy; Walter W. Schafer, Navy; John Wallenburg, Navy; Kenneth A. Wisdom, Navy; Michael D. Zagya, Navy.

These 26 heroes join more than 81,000 veterans from across the country who, since 2005, have journeyed from their home states to Washington, D.C. to reflect at the memorials built in honor of our nation's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, each of us is humbled by the courage of these brave Americans who put themselves in harm's way for our country and way of life. As a nation, we can never fully repay the debt of gratitude owed to them for their honor, commitment, and sacrifice in defense of the freedoms we have today.

My colleagues, please join me in thanking these veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Southern Oregon for their exemplary dedication and service to this great country. I especially want to recognize Honor Flight of Oregon President, Gail Yakopatz. Her tireless work will result in over 350 World War II veterans from Honor Flight of Oregon and Southern Oregon Honor Flight visiting the memorials and U.S. Capitol.

COMMENDING THE NEW RISING  
STAR MISSIONARY BAPTIST  
CHURCH

**HON. MARC A. VEASEY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to commend The New Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church led by Pastor Isadore Edwards, Jr. for establishing the Raymond B. Spencer Scholarship Fund that strives to not only assist young students in their pursuit of higher education but to embody the generous and selfless spirit of Dr. Raymond Bernard Spencer.

Dr. Raymond Bernard Spencer was born in Houston, Texas on September 21, 1964, as the youngest child to Manfred and Helen

Spencer. After attending public schools in Houston, he went on to obtain his Bachelor of Science Degree from Oklahoma Christian College in 1989. He then completed the Master of Divinity Program at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, which I am proud to represent in Congress. Dr. Raymond Bernard Spencer continued in his education at Southwestern and obtained his doctoral degree in Theology in 2001. As a further distinction and honor, he served as the first full time African American pastor at Southwestern where he taught preaching in the School of Theology while also serving as adjunct professor of the Old and New Testament at Dallas Baptist University. Finally, his service to faith included Superintendent of Church School and Assistant to Pastor Isadore Davis, Jr. at The New Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas.

There can be no doubt that Dr. Spencer was an exceptional student, respected seeker of knowledge, and follower in the path of God, but he was also a caring professor, a trusted friend, gifted vocalist, and a generous advocate of academic excellence for students and young people. He pursued all of these passions in life, faith, and academics with such staunch persistence and zeal until he was laid to rest on January 10, 2013. I can think of no better way to honor his lifelong devotion to improving the lives of those around him than continuing his advocacy for higher education with the Raymond B. Spencer Scholarship Fund and I congratulate The New Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church on their tenth anniversary of this wonderful endeavor.

I am so proud to represent The New Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church and many members of their congregation who devote their lives to improving the lives of their young students and opening up opportunities for them to preserve Dr. Spencer's legacy of excellence. Let their efforts serve as a testament to the lives of others for what can be achieved through dedication and devotion to the greater good of humanity.

In honor of The New Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church led by Pastor Isadore Edwards, Jr. and the Raymond B. Spencer Scholarship Fund this statement will be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Tuesday, April 21, 2015.

CONGRATULATING 2015 INDUCTEES  
INTO THE IOWA VOLUNTEER  
HALL OF FAME

**HON. ROD BLUM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, Governor Terry E. Branstad and Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds inducted three individuals and one organization into the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame on April 14th, 2015 in Des Moines, Iowa. The 2015 inductees include H.D. "Ike" Leighty from Waterloo and the Sisters of Mercy from Cedar Rapids. Both reside in my district and I rise today to honor their hard work and acknowledge their accomplishments.

H.D. "Ike" Leighty co-founded Engineered Products Company in Waterloo, Iowa in 1977. After selling the business, he established The Leighty Foundation and the Mother Moon

Service Scholarship program. Every year, this program awards a college scholarship to one Black Hawk county high school junior who completes over 100 hours of community service. To date, 179 Iowans have received assistance towards a college education from the Mother Moon Service Scholarship.

In 1989, the Sisters of Mercy founded the Catherine McAuley Center to develop long term solutions to poverty in the Cedar Rapids area. Guided by the five core values of empowerment, learning, mercy, community, and commitment, the Sisters provide one-on-one tutoring for adults, as well as transitional housing for victims of domestic violence, and those who suffer from mental illness and substance abuse.

H.D. "Ike" Leighty and the Sisters of Mercy are model citizens and assets to their communities. I encourage all Iowans to visit the State of Iowa Historical Museum in Des Moines and view the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame plaques where their names now join 155 other inductees. On behalf of the people of Iowa's first district, I commend Mr. Leighty and the Sisters of Mercy for their selflessness and sacrifice in service to our communities. I congratulate them on their 2015 induction into the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN P. NELSON IN  
THE FIRST SESSION OF THE  
114TH CONGRESS

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. John P. Nelson for his many years of service and dedication to the Iowa West Foundation. He is an Iowa native and I'm proud to recognize him today for his great achievement.

Mr. Nelson is Chairman of the Board for the Silverstone Group. He graduated from Abraham Lincoln High School in Council Bluffs, Iowa and attended Carleton College in Minnesota and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics. Mr. Nelson then joined the United States Navy and served his country for three years. After leaving the Navy, Mr. Nelson returned to Iowa and joined his family's insurance agency, now the Silverstone Group.

Because of his active service participation throughout the area in business and his community, Mr. Nelson has earned several prestigious awards for his service. He continues to serve on many area boards and commissions. Mr. Nelson's endless dedication, commitment, generosity and leadership to the Iowa West Foundation and the Council Bluffs community has enhanced and improved the quality of life for our community and citizens. Mr. Nelson's devotion to Iowa has helped create a place where it is great to raise a family, work and live.

Mr. Nelson is an Iowan who has made a difference and made our state proud. He has dedicated his life to helping and serving others and it is with great honor that I recognize him today. I know that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring his accomplishments. I thank him for his service and wish him and his family all the best moving forward.